

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL-

A WORKING GROUP OF THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Research Activity Panel Meeting Minutes

Discovery Lab
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey, California
Friday, November 18, 1994 - 1300 to 1630 hrs
Minutes taken and transcribed by:
Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS - RAP Executive Coordinator

Member Attendees

George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs, RAP Chairman
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA Dept. of Fish and Game/Monterey
Ken Parker, OAB
Don Potts, UCSC
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab
Members Not Able to Attend:
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Cliff Hoskins, Department of the Interior
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Stephen Mueller, Morro Bay Foundation
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM
Bill Schramm, OAB
Les Strnad, California Coastal Commission

Guest Attendees:

Janet Hashimoto, EPA, San Francisco
Bob Hall, EPA, San Francisco
Jack Wickham, MBNMS CWG

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, introduced the meeting.

Quick discussion items:

Introductions - Introductions were made around the table. Scott Kathey was present at the beginning of the meeting and was introduced to the RAP.

Minutes - Minutes from the October RAP meeting were unanimously approved with one minor change by Gary Sharp stating that the wavelength on the CODR project should be in meters, not kilometers.

Report on the SAC meeting (Cailliet) - Doug Wheeler was at the last meeting (Secretary of the CA Resources Agency; The MBNMS budget was requested by the SAC Chair and this request was being considered by SRD; CA MBNMS License Plate update; Shark Chumming draft report; Jade Cove will have some type of regulatory exemption to it; Water Quality Protection Program was updated. Aaron was requested to start sending out the SAC minutes to the RAP members over e-mail.

Fort Ord Offshore Environmental Risk Analysis

(Cailliet) - Meeting at Fort Ord, Monday, Nov. 21, 1994, at 10 am, to discuss the Harding/Larson evidence of information on the area of Fort Ord impact from the Sand Dunes seaward. Members of the Chair's Ad Hoc RAP committee on Fort Ord will attend. - The Fort Ord Coastal Undersea Survey (FOCUS), a study being undertaken by Greg Cailliet, is working up data from fish samples they have taken over the past couple of months within the old Fort Ord restricted area.

Research Coordinator Position Status (King) -

Nothing changed since last meeting. Hoping to get the Vacancy announcement out by around the first of the year.

Site Characterization Update (Cailliet) - As a first step in the Site Characterization project, there will be a meeting of selected researchers on December 12, 1994, at 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, at the ML Chamber of Commerce building. All members of the RAP are invited. At this point, Ken Parker gave a brief overview of his work with OceanSearch and how this project will interface with the Site Characterization project.

Permit Report (King) - Since the SAC is meeting 3 weeks from now, there is no new permit report. Aaron was asked to mail out the next permit report to the RAP membership when it is available in about 2 weeks.

Institutional Permit Status (Cailliet) - Due to other urgent matters, the institutional permitting system has been put on hold by SRD until other matters can be worked out.

EcoNet Update (King) - Aaron stated that the Sanctuary is investigating a possible means through which it can become hardwired into the Internet. The purpose would be to set up an Internet Node on which the Sanctuary could set up databases, bulletin boards, listservs, etc., through which the marine science, education and management communities can coordinate and facilitate their actions. Aaron also stated that in the meantime, he would be discontinuing the Econet Bulletin Board, and simply send notices directly to RAP members and interests with the use of addressing aliases.

Gary Sharp mentioned the efforts and plans of the CSU Monterey Bay to act as an Internet facilitator for the Monterey Bay area.

MBNMS Research Budget (King) - Nothing new.

RAP Binder (King) - Nothing new.

NOAA Guide to MBNMS Marine Researchers

(Roletto/King) - Jan and Aaron explained that they were investigating a combined GFNMS/CBNMS/MBNMS.

Presently, they were investigating a way of acquiring the template and data put together by State Assemblyman (now Congressman) Sam Farr. Since this concerns a potential collaborative effort between a Congressman's office and an agency of the Administration, clearances must be sought before contacts are made. Jan and Aaron are in the process of doing this.

Monterey Bay Research Symposium (Starr) -

Advertisements and press releases are going out and everything seems to be going fine. Rick asked everyone to start thinking about the next Research Symposium and where it should be. One idea put forward by Rick was to have it on any results that are out at that time on the Site Characterization. Rick also wants to start the RAP thinking of some type of ongoing actions to follow the Research Symposium, such as a public display of certain posters. Rick also suggested that there be some sort of award for the best student poster. The Chair suggested that the Research Symposium in later years may want to be incorporated into the Sanctuary birthday celebrations. Ken Parker volunteered to start work on a 1995 Research Symposium on visualization of the Monterey Bay area. The RAP encouraged him to investigate this possibility and get back to them on what his ideas were on this. Please help get the word out.

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals (Cailliet)

- Laurel Fox, et al. Regional Research Program Review; Noted by RAP; Don Potts updated the RAP on this project with the following information:

Chancellor Karl Pister has formally established a Monterey Bay Regional Studies program at UCSC (MBRS/UCSC) as part of his continuing commitment to regional involvement. He will provide three years of funding to establish the program and to encourage regional activities in research, teaching and outreach by UCSC faculty and students. Establishment of this program fulfills one of the recommendations of the MBRS Workshop held in February 1994.

Dr. Laurel Fox (Biology Dept.) has been appointed Director and will report directly to the Academic Vice Chancellor for Research, Jim Gill. An Associate Director from the social sciences will be appointed shortly.

Initially, the MBRS/UCSC program will encourage multidisciplinary approaches to regional issues by natural and social science researchers. Longer term goals are to provide a focus, facilitation and support for participation of UCSC researchers and educators in broader collaborations with other research, educational, governmental and industrial colleagues in the region. The MBRS/UCSC program will help UCSC be an active, collaborative partner in efforts to address regional issues.

Initial activities planned until June 1995 include:

1. A seminar in Spring examining specific regional issues from natural and social science perspectives. This will be aimed at both graduate and advanced undergraduate students and we plan to open it to students and researchers other regional institutions. The seminar will be taught jointly by Dr. Mary Silver (Marine Sciences) and Dr. Margaret Fitzsimmons (Environmental Studies). The initial planned emphases will be marine systems, agriculture and tourism.
2. A regional Symposium in Spring on an important local issue to be determined.
3. Monthly meetings discussing specific regional topics from multidisciplinary perspectives.
4. We are actively developing specific, multidisciplinary and collaborative regional research projects that will be funded starting in July 1995.

All of these activities will be announced widely. We encourage and welcome participation from around the Bay region.

- Waddell Bluff/Highway 1 Project Review - Deals with sedimentation from road construction on intertidal and subtidal environments. Brought up at the last SAC meeting, the Chair said that this was something the RAP may be requested to comment on in the near future. Deborah said she would look into this one if the SAC wished the RAP to do so.
- Epel Review - Deals with survival of organisms in toxic environments. Mark and Deborah said they would look

at it, but the RAP directed them to wait until the full proposal is available.

User Fee/Profile Workshop - Nov. 14-17, 1994

(Cailliet) - Greg briefed the RAP on the issue, workshop and status of the user fee controversy. Greg summarized that the consensus of the workshop participants was that the concept of user fees in Sanctuaries was a bad idea. If extra money was needed, then Sanctuary users should be asked to donate the money through various means, but not be forced to pay. Greg's opinion was that the user fee issue is now dead.

Ocean Acoustics (Wickham) - Jack Wickham asked to speak with anyone on the RAP about acoustics in marine organisms to help him learn more about that subject.

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NOAA Ship McArthur Ship (Cailliet) - George Boehlert informed the RAP that NOAA ships usually require a 90 day pre-cruise instruction and a 30 days pre-cruise instruction. Therefore, the RAP should target the end of February as being the time at which they have their schedule recommendation to Terry. It was also noted that the McArthur could house up to 10 scientists.

Subcommittee formed of Gary Sharp (Chair), Ken Parker, and Aaron King (Facilitator) to organize and facilitate a ship schedule that can be recommended to Terry Jackson. All RAP members should encourage their institutional interests to have a one page summary of the project to Aaron and the subcommittee by December 15. The subcommittee should meet once before the January RAP meeting, and attempt to have something for the RAP to examine by the next meeting. Gary Sharp suggested that a schematic map of where each of the research projects will be and when.

The RAP then discussed particular projects that could be scheduled for use on the McArthur (for an updated schedule, contact Aaron).

Chumming Subcommittee Report (Johnston) - Deborah gave a brief update on the changes she had made in the latest draft on chumming, and the Chair stated that the RAP members would have until the following Wednesday to get any final comments to the subcommittee. After that, the report would be finalized, and Greg would transmit the final version to the SAC for their consideration.

E-MAP (Bob Hall) - Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) is a long-term research, monitoring and assessment program designed to measure the current condition of the nation's ecological resources. The ultimate goal of EMAP is to provide decision makers with sound ecological data to improve environmental decisions. Attributes of EMAP are its probability-based design, multiple types of indicators measured at each site and standardized methods used throughout each region. EMAP objectives are to estimate the current status, trends and changes in selected indicators, and estimate the geographic coverage and extent of the nation's ecological resources with known statistical confidence. Also, to seek associations between selected indicators of natural and anthropogenic stresses and indicators on the condition of ecological resources.

EMAP uses a statistical sampling design with three major components - EMAP hexagonal grid, a multi-tiered sampling approach and a rotating sampling schedule. In developing a regional sampling design the hexagonal grid cell size is determined by the area and type of resource to be monitored. The grid cells to be sampled for the first year are selected randomly. The location within each cell is picked randomly to provide a second order randomization of sampling. With second order randomization within the cells preliminary stratification of the study area is not necessary. The spatial control of the sampling design over time will ensure proportional allocation of the strata. For example, if a cell is 50% mud and 50% rock outcrop within two sampling cycles this proportionality can be determined.

EMAP and EPA Region IX pilot project focused on the Southern California Bight from Pt. Conception to the

US/Mexico border. In the past, Southern California's bight-wide monitoring was limited to periodic reference surveys, conducted about every four years. The spatial coverage was sparse and patchy. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) monitoring programs were designed to specifically assess the impacts of discharges in comparison to a nearby reference site outside the influence of the discharge. After 10 years of monitoring we knew there are differences between outfall and reference areas. However, we were not able to answer some important management questions - Is it safe to swim in the ocean? Is it safe to eat the fish caught in the Bight? Are the fisheries and resources protected? and Is the ecosystem healthy? Therefore, we needed to design and build a regional monitoring program capable of addressing these questions.

Indicators measured for the Southern California Bight Pilot Project (SCBPP) are - benthic assemblages, sediment contamination, dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, transmissivity, sediment characteristics, marine debris, fish assemblages, fish gross pathology, fish bioaccumulation and sediment toxicity. SCBPP questions asked in analyzing the data - How do the northern, central and southern areas of the Bight compare? How do the shallow (10-25m), mid-depth (25-100) and deep (100-200) compare? How do the areas around the four large wastewater outfalls (LA Hyperion, LA County, Orange County and San Diego) compare to the rest of the Bight? How does Santa Monica Bay compare to the rest of the Bight? How does the area around the LA Hyperion outfall compare with other areas in Santa Monica Bay? How do areas within 3 km of stormwater discharges compare to the rest of the Bight?

For further information on EMAP contact Robert Hall (415) 744-1936, or rhall@sparc2.r09.epa.gov.

OTHER ITEMS

Other Old Business - None

New Business -

- **Future RAP Meeting Schedule (Cailliet)** - After a discussion, it was decided the RAP's schedule of meetings should remain as the third Friday of each month, but that it should try meeting in the afternoons, from 1300 to 1630 hrs. Therefore the next six month schedule would be as follows (edits made as of January 4, 1995, after further investigation by Aaron of possible sites, etc.):

January 13 - Applied Sciences Building, UCSC, Room 330.

February 17 - Ocean View Conference Room, West, MBA

March 17 - Ocean View Conference Room, West, MBA

April 21 - Calif. Fish and Game Office, Monterey

May 19 - Ocean View Conference Room, West, MBA

June 16 - Calif. Fish and Game Office, Monterey

There will be no meeting in December due to the scheduling of the Monterey Bay Research Symposium on December 27, in conjunction with WSN.

- Future Meeting Discussion Topics: Monterey Academy of Oceanography, Site Characterization,

REINIS???

ADJOURN

(Note by Aaron: Please note that the January RAP meeting has been rescheduled from Jan. 20 to Jan. 13 at UCSC to accomodate the ATOC issue and the upcoming SAC meeting. Also note that all of the scheduled meetings will be from 1300 to 1630 hrs.)